

ledge to enter into practical details on this point. I shall only venture therefore to offer these remarks as mere suggestions, in the hope that others possessed of more opportunity and skill to investigate this subject than myself, and whose business it more immediately concerns, might take it up in practical earnest, whereby the weighty matter involved in public orations might not be lost upon the audience, as happens but too often, under present circumstances.

JAMES BILLET.

Books.

The Traveller's Library, Nos. 6 and 7.—Residence in Norway. By SAMUEL LAING. No. 8.—*Rank's History of the Pope, and Gladsstone on Church and State.* By T. B. MACAULAY. Reprinted from "Critical and Historical Essays." Longman and Co., London.

THE steady continuance of these new issues is a proof of the sustenance of the railway and other demand for such classical selections, as we may call them, from our already approved literature. Laing's Norway contains throughout some interesting remarks on buildings: we may here quote his account of Dronthiem Cathedral.

"I went to see the far-famed cathedral. It does not impress the traveller who has seen others either with its magnitude or its beauty. It has nothing picturesque, whether viewed near or at a distance, and it has attracted little notice from the English or other foreign travellers. It is, however, a very remarkable and interesting structure. There are parts unquestionably as old as the year 1033. Few if any of the churches in England, which are considered to be of Saxon architecture, are known as belonging to that period, being about the time of Canute the Great; and any which, from the style of architecture, are considered to be older than the Norman Conquest, are objects of great interest; and the style of arches and ornaments has given rise to many curious speculations. This cathedral would, therefore, deserve the careful examination of those conversant with the subject. There are parts of the fabric which have evidently been rebuilt at various periods, as the structure has frequently suffered from fire, and the old finely cut stones have in many places been built into the present walls without any distinct reason; in some places forming arches, and in others pillars supporting nothing, but merely put in, because they were considered ornamental. The barbarous taste of those who at present have charge of this curious building is much less excusable. Workmen are actually employed in painting over the whole of the stone work, of a sort of light-blue colour, which they think more beautiful, and more like stone, than the beautiful stone itself of which the fabric is constructed. They are picking out, as our house-painters call it, in white paint, the traceries, grotesques, and ornamental pillars, so that the whole exterior resembles very much the stern of a Dutch galliot. It would require some time, and more knowledge of the subject than I am master of, to consider this structure properly, and to distinguish what is original from what is of a later age.

I have paid a daily visit, since I arrived, to the cathedral, and, as I intend to move to-morrow, I will put down all that I have read or observed concerning this structure. King Olaf Haraldson, who appears to have been the most blood-thirsty tyrant who was ever canonised, was killed by his subjects in a battle at a place called Sikklestad, north of Dronthiem, in the year 1033; and his body was interred in a church still standing, which he himself had built in that city and dedicated to Saint Clement. As Olaf reigned fifteen years, this building must have been erected between 1018 and 1033. As this monarch introduced Christianity by fire and sword into his dominions, and was killed by the peasants whom his cruelties had driven into revolt, he was canonised: his shrine became the most distinguished in the north of Europe, and one of the most frequented by pilgrims. The cath-

edral was founded in the year 1180 or 1183, close to this church, which forms a chapel at the east end of it. The west end, now in ruins, was not founded till the year 1248, and in the end of the thirteenth century the whole structure must have stood in its splendour. The extreme length has been 346, and its breadth 84, English feet; but the west end, which contained the grand entrance, had a chapel at each corner, making the breadth of that front 140 feet. The transept and east end are the only parts roofed in, and now used for Divine service. The western, once magnificently ornamented, is now used as a timber or store-yard, but the outer walls still rise to the height of the arches of the lower windows, which are pointed, and of the spring of those which have joined the outer walls to the pillars of the aisles; but these are all demolished. The grand entrance in this front was by three doors, now all built up, and in their place buttresses support this end of the wood-yard. This front was adorned with a row of twenty arched and delicately cut niches above the three entrance gates, and below these, on each side of the entrances, a row of ten pointed arches with ornamental ones within them. The ten have rested upon slight pillars, and those within have joined and ended in a carved flower. The niches have been exceedingly rich in finely carved fret-work and mouldings, and they still contain five full-length statues more or less mutilated. From the folds of the drapery, hands, and hair of the heads, they could not have been the work of the same age or country which produced the grotesque masks and figures which are strewn with profusion over the most ancient parts of the building. They are of a different taste and school from those figures in the cathedral of Amiens and other churches of the same period; and the celebrated figure of the goose-footed queen, on the portals of four French cathedrals, which has given occasion to so much learned conjecture, could not probably be ranked with these. They display considerable merit, and deserve the examination of a competent judge. The upper works of the transept and east end, being all now roofed in, have probably been rebuilt at various and comparatively recent periods. By these, I mean all above the first arches, or those springing from the ground. I conceive that all this higher part has originally been only of wood, for the cathedral is said to have frequently been burned. Now fire would consume the roof and wood-work, but not the stone walls. At all events, the stones, not being calcareous, would have remained though the walls had tumbled down. But there is on the spot no rubbish, no heaps of ruins, and in the adjacent houses no stones, which originally belonged to the cathedral: having all been squared, they would have been easily recognised. Hence I suspect that, when the wood-work has been consumed by fire at different periods, the stones of the aisles and arches within the shell now remaining of the west end have been employed to build up the present walls of the transept, and other parts which were originally of wood. Thus we may account for the paltry taste and execution of all the upper part of the structure, and for the invention of cut stone mouldings of arches where an arch could never have been intended; but the stones have evidently been built in from other places, while all that is below, and could not possibly have been injured by any conflagration, is original, and, from its antiquity, style, and execution, very interesting. The round arch with the zigzag ornament, which we call Saxon, is employed in all this old part, and also in Saint Clement's Chapel. The present entrance in the north transept is a fine specimen of both. But this simple massive style is mixed with light pointed arches, adorned with grotesque heads, flowers, and all the variety of ornaments which are usually considered peculiar to a much later period of Gothic architecture; but here the two styles are evidently coeval. It shakes the theory of the Saxon and Norman, the round and pointed arch having been used exclusively in particular and different centuries, and affording ground to determine the comparative antiquity of Gothic edifices. The Norman

arch, in its most solid style, is here connected with the Saxon in its most simple and massive form, in a building where the known date of the portions containing this admixture is more ancient than the ascertained date of those English edifices from which the theory is derived.

There has been a good deal of ingenious writing about the origin of Gothic arches. The interlacing of the boughs of tall trees in an avenue, as it has something of the effect, has also been considered as the original model of the interior of the Gothic cathedral, and what the earliest architects may have proposed to imitate. The origin is probably much less picturesque. The people of the north of Europe, before their conversion to Christianity, buried their dead, like all barbarous nations, with their arms and implements, and even their horses, slaves, and sometimes their wives. On the sea-coast, the boat or ship in which the chieftain sailed was laid over the body, and the tumulus was raised over its hull. This circumstance repeatedly occurs in the Saga; and the ship-tumulus is distinguished by all Scandinavian antiquaries as distinct from the round heaps or mounds of earth raised over stone coffins or other receptacles. Its inside would be exactly a Gothic building in wood; and the main body, the nave (*naus*) is called the ship of the building in the ancient northern languages, probably in reference to this origin.

The curious will find a minute description of the cathedral of Saint Olaf, its 316 windows, its 3,361 pillars, its 32 altars, and all the rest of its magnificence, in a quarto volume, published at Dronthiem, in the year 1762, by Gerard Schöningh, rector of the high school there; an antiquary whose works are held in high esteem by the learned in Scandinavian antiquities.

Miscellaneous.

WHAT A HODMAN CAN DO.—Many people turn up their noses at what they call "dirty work," as though all honest labour was not cleaner than many kid glove ways of swindling one's way through the world. Rather than owe our living to the latter, we would infinitely prefer to shake carpets or sweep chimneys at fifty cents per day. A day or two since, we learned an instructive bit of history touching a doer of "dirty work,"—a hodman. No matter where he was born: he was none the worse for being a Turkman or an Irishman. He came to this city about ten years ago, young, healthy, and honest. He could get no employment but hod carrying, and he carried it so well as to earn at once his dollar a day. He procured cheap but good board and lodgings, spent none of his earnings in saloons or low places, attended church on the Sabbath, educated himself of evenings, laid up money, and, at the end of five years, bought a lot in the city, and built a pretty cottage. In one year more he found a good wife, and used a cottage before rented out. For these six years he had steadily carried the hod. He was a noble pattern of a man. On the opening of the eighth year, his talents and integrity were called to a more profitable account. He embarked as a partner in a business already well established. This day he is worth at least 100,000 dollars: he has a lovely wife and two beautiful children, a home that is the centre of a brilliant and intelligent circle, and he is one of the happiest and most honourable men as far as he is known. So much has come of a hodman.—*American Paper.*

CLAIM FOR WAGES.—At West Bromwich, a workman lately summoned his employer, an engineer, for 30s. alleged to be due to him. The defendant pleaded that, because he had paid complainant at the rate of 4s. a day while he demanded 5s.—there being no previous agreement as to wages—complainant had wilfully spoiled two dies, damaged 30s., and he therefore refused to pay the man's claim. The magistrates dismissed the case, one of them remarking that complainant should have taken care to have had an agreement as to wages before he began work.